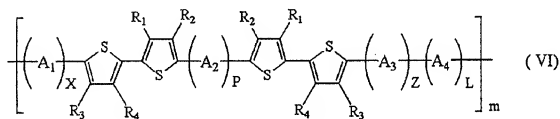


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Please add new Claims 19 to 22 as shown below.


1 to 18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) A  $\pi$ -conjugated compound represented by General Formula (VI) below:



where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are respectively hydrogen or a linear, cyclic, or branched alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, at least one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  being not hydrogen, and one or more of  $CH_2$  of the alkyl group may be replaced by O, CO, S, or NH;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are respectively hydrogen or a linear, cyclic, or branched perfluoroalkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, at least one of  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  being not hydrogen, and one or more of  $CF_2$  of the perfluoroalkyl group may be replaced by  $CH_2$ , O, CO, S, or NH;  $A_1$  and  $A_3$  each represents a single bond,  $A_2$  and  $A_4$  each represents a thiophene ring; one or more of CH groups in the ring may be replaced by N, or may have a substituent;  $r$  is an integer of 1 to 10;  $X$ ,  $Z$ , and  $L$  are respectively an integer of 0 to 20 provided that the sum  $X+Z+L$  is an odd number;  $Y$  is an even number of not more than 20;  $P$  is an odd number not more than 19; and  $m$  is an integer of 2 to 500.

20. (New) The  $\pi$ -conjugated compound according to claim 19, wherein X, Z, and L are respectively an integer of 0 to 6, Y is an even number of 6 or less, and P is an odd number of 5 or less.

21. (New) The  $\pi$ -conjugated compound according to claim 19, where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  each represents  $C_{10}H_{21}$ ,  $R_3$  represents  $C_8F_{17}$ , and  $R_4$  represents H;  $A_2$  and  $A_4$  each represents ; X is 0, P is 1, Z is 0, and L is 1.

22. (New) A conductive organic thin film containing the  $\pi$ -conjugated compound set forth in claim 19.